



*"The workhorse of the Air Force"*

# Buckeye Flyer

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## Commander nominated for brigadier general



President George W. Bush nominated 12 Air Force Reserve colonels for promotion to the rank of

brigadier general on Oct. 15.

Among them was Col. Hanferd J. (Rusty) Moen, Jr., commander of the 445th Airlift Wing. The promotion takes effect upon U.S. Senate confirmation and by direction of the chief of Air Force Reserve.

Col. Moen assumed command of the 445th on May 5, 2002, succeeding Brig. Gen. Paul R. Cooper as he retired from the Air Force Reserve.

Col. Moen has served as Reserve advisor to the commander, Air mobility Command, Scott AFN, Ill.; commander and deputy commander for wing and group operations for the 459th Airlift Wing, Andrews AFB, Md.; and, chief of safety and wing standards and evaluations officer of the 446th Airlift Wing at McChord AFB, Wash.

The colonel earned a bachelor's degree from Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colo., and a master's degree from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C.

A 1973 graduate of the Air Force officer training program, Lackland AFB, Texas, Col. Moen received his wings after completing pilot training at Moody AFB, Ga. in 1974. He is a command pilot with more than 6,700 flying hours in C-141s, C-130s, T-37s and T-38s. (445th AW/News Release)



## Freedom 01 on final

**"Patterson Tower to Freedom 01 cleared for low approach and land 23 right"**

**The "Hanoi Taxi" pulls into a designated parking spot on the West ramp with people waiting to welcome it back to Wright-Patterson after being refurbished back to its original paint scheme at Warner Robins depot in Georgia. (Courtesy photo)**

*by SrA Robert Sperling  
445th AW/ Public Affairs*

With a low pass over the field saluting the crowd gathered below, the C-141 -- tail number 66-0177 -- executed a smooth transition to touchdown and a proudly taxied to a position beside an old friend, a T-38 Talon from the 560th Flight Training Squadron. The C-141 Starlifter, reverently called the "Hanoi Taxi," had found its way home to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

The "Taxi" has been in primary depot maintenance at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center located at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. for more than 18 months. During that time, it was disassembled and every inch was inspected for even the most minute defect or wear. Anything that needed to be was repaired or replaced. The aircraft was then reassembled. While "in depot," all aircraft are treated to a fresh coat of Air Force gray monotone paint, but tail number 0177 was different.

Through a special arrangement with the 445th Airlift Wing and Air Force Reserve Command, the "Hanoi Taxi" received the once-standard gray and white paint scheme that all Air Force cargo aircraft wore.

Master Sgt. Henry Harlow, 445th Aircraft Generation Squadron, recalls the

discussion about changing 177's paint motif back to the original scheme: "Two years ago I was attending Non-Commissioned Officer School at Robins (Air Force Base) and was facing a losing battle of trying to explain to the instructors that I was a maintenance troop and did not write position papers. Shortly after returning to Wright-Patt from school I was called to the group commander's office and asked if I thought 177 should be returned to its original paint scheme. I said, 'Absolutely!' The commander told me to write a position paper justifying the change. I guess I wrote a pretty good paper because a few weeks later I was called back to the commander's office and told that the project had been approved."

How 177 became known as the "Hanoi Taxi" was discovered in late 1993. It was October 31st. The aircraft assigned to the 356th Airlift Squadron was undergoing routine maintenance by its crew chiefs, Master Sgt. David Dillon and Master Sgt. Jeff Whitman, when they noticed a small sticker on the flight engineer's panel that read, "Hanoi Taxi."

Sgt. Harlow explains, "When Dave and Jeff found the sticker they came to me asking if I could help them figure out what it was or what it meant. Now, understand that I am a

**See Freedom on page 4 & 5**

## Think and thank

by Capt. Andre Saunders  
445th AW Chaplain

It has often been pointed out that thinking precedes thanking. When we are presented with a gift, it is because we think of its significance and meaning that we are led to express our appreciation. Somewhere in our thinking there should be thoughts of God. Perhaps we should start there. When Paul traces the downward path of humanity, he begins by saying that "when they knew God, . . . glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful" (Romans 1:21).

People were not thankful that they had a revelation of God; indeed, they thought to suppress that knowledge and to evade its power. We should see our own insignificance in the light of the facts we know about God. We should see and confess our own frailty and failures. We should admit our commitment to earthly things. But we should not stop there. We should think thoughts about our privileges thru God. We should recognize our responsibility to be thankful, and from our lips there should come a daily song of praise.

Why is it, then, that we are inclined to be less thankful? The truth probably is that we don't stop to think as we should. The cares, riches, and pleasures of life choke the plant of gratitude, and our lives become callous and unfruitful. Thanksgiving is the product of careful cultivation. It is the fruit of a deliberate resolve to think about God, ourselves, and our privileges and responsibilities, especially in light of September 11. By giving thanks we make manifest the fact that our lives are not controlled by luck and chance. We give testimony to the fact that material things do not sway the horizons of our odysseys. Have a safe and happy Thanks-giving!

## Safety awareness

by Col. Rusty Moen  
445th AW/Commander

Our primary mission within the 445th Airlift Wing is to train personnel and provide resources to meet all global taskings. Given our current environment of high operations tempo and dwindling resources it is imperative that we integrate safety awareness into our daily activities. Having been in the Air force for over 28 years I have too many times read accident reports where lives have been lost and equipment destroyed that never should have happened.

Most mishaps could have been easily prevented had safety awareness and risk assessment entered the thought process prior to the event. Safety training is



required by Federal and Air Force regulations, and we need to make use of all the numerous Operation Risk Management tools readily available to all of us. We need to ensure we utilize all of the resources available to us so that it can never be said that we lost one life, one aircraft, or one resource because we couldn't take the time to utilize these tools.

I charter each of you with the responsibility of developing safe work habits and safe work environments as well as to mentor those under your supervision to do the same. These habits should follow us wherever we may go, regardless of whether we're on or off duty. We must not jeopardize any of our people or other assets to carelessness to ensure we are capable of supporting our mission and doing the job our country depends on. I'm counting on each of you to share in this most serious of responsibilities.

## Leaders say 'thank you' to employers

by Tech. Sgt. Scott Elliott  
Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON** — In recognition of the invaluable role played by the air reserve component in the war on terrorism, the service's senior leaders are sending their personal thanks to employers of Air National Guardsmen and Air Force reservists.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper are sending joint letters and lapel pins in recognition of the sacrifices made in support of the war.

The Air Force is asking guardsmen and reservists to come forward with information about their civilian employers, as this information is not routinely collected.

"The real key to the 'Thank the Employer' program is gathering information from our airmen," said Brig. Gen. Ed Tonini, an activated Kentucky Air National

Guardsman working with the Air Force office of public affairs.

So far, the Air Force has collected data from more than 34,000 of the country's 190,000 citizen airmen.

"We know that the war on terrorism and the efforts to ensure homeland security have placed a strain on the employers of our Guard and Reserve airmen," Tonini said. "We also know that many airmen worry about the effects their service will have on their civilian employment."

Sending recognition to employers also acknowledges the "Thank the Employer" program's value as a recruiting and retention tool, Tonini said.

The Web site are available for guardsmen and reservists to provide their employer information by Oct. 15. Traditional guardsmen and reservists, including individual mobilization augmentees, can visit [www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com/thanks](http://www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com/thanks).

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*Family's military service lives on*

# From grandfather to grandson

*Photo and story by SrA Robert Sperling  
445th AW/ Public Affairs*

On Oct. 5, 2002, a family heirloom representing 60 years of military service and five major military campaigns passed from grandfather to grandson in a moving ceremony.

It was June, 1941, when Ralph I. Williams graduated from Purdue University and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U. S. Army Reserve Corps. At the commissioning ceremony his wife, Wanda, helped pin on his gold bars.

Two months later, Williams was called to active duty and sent to the Basic Officers Course at the Field Artillery School, Ft. Sill, Okla.

Williams was promoted to 1st lieutenant the following year, and in the time between his initial commission and first promotion the gold 2nd lieutenant bars had been polished so much that the gold plate had been worn away revealing the shiny nickel finish underneath, thus becoming 1st lieutenant bars.

In December of 1942, 1st Lt. Williams was wearing his "2nd/1st lieutenant" bars during an amphibious landing by the 9th Infantry Division at Port Lyautey, French Morocco, North Africa. One month later, Williams found himself in an ancient Portuguese fort, constructed in 1100 A.D., when a call came informing him that he had been promoted to captain. Since he and his troops were at a forward location it was impossible to purchase new rank insignia. He said, "There wasn't a post exchange or clothing store there for us to get the new insignia, so my motor sergeant took the '2nd /1st Lieutenant' bars I was wearing and soldered them together to make the 'railroad track' captain insignia".

Williams went on to wear his "2nd lieutenant/1st lieutenant/captain" bars in other campaigns of World War II, including the amphibious landing of Sicily, July 1943; the amphibious landing at Utah Beach in Normandy, June 1944; and combat in France.

He was field promoted to major when his immediate superior officer was killed in a Jeep that ran over a German land mine while on a reconnaissance mission that Williams had been scheduled to conduct.

"I feel as if the 'captain' bars were good luck for me and I wanted to pass along that luck to my grandson in hopes that it will protect him, too," remarked Williams. He continued to serve in the U.S. Army until he retired at the rank of colonel in 1970.

Capt. Mark Rogers, 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, tearfully spoke of his grandfather's "captain" bars. "Having my grandfather travel here from Florida and pin his bars on me gives me a real sense of family. The bars are family heirlooms and are a



**Mr. Ralph Williams, grandfather of Capt. Mark Rogers from the 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron pins on captain bars that he once worn who was just promoted.**

memento of my late grandmother who first pinned them on my grandfather in '41. I will wear them in her memory and in the memory of the things my grandfather did. This day is a special family moment. Knowing and understanding the spirit of service that has coursed through my family for 60 years and is now being passed to me is indescribable," said Rogers.

Rogers enlisted in the Air Force in 1985 as a Security Policeman and served for three years as a Nuclear Area specialist at Carswell AFB, Texas. Following his active duty time, then Staff Sgt. Rogers took a position as an Air Reserve Technician with the 301st Tactical Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron. He served five years with the 301st.

Rogers received his commission in 1999 while assigned to the 445th Airlift Wing and where he serves as a traditional reservist Medical Service Corps officer with the 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron. In civilian life, Rogers is a civil servant with Air Force Materiel Command's Security Force training programs office.

Capt. Rogers' attributes his active involvement with his reserve unit to the ideals and practices his grandparents taught him.

"My grandfather is a true American hero -- not just a wartime hero. He is a pillar of his community and is more active now than he ever was. He volunteers with about any organization imaginable," said Rogers; "I can only hope to live up to his legacy."







Aircraft 177, know as the "Hanoi Taxi" comes in for a landing for the first time this year. The aircraft was at the depot being refurbished.



The Wright-Brass Band plays toons as the Hanoi Taxi taxis in for the ceremony. (Courtesy photos)



Maj. Gen. Edward J. Mechenbier, mobilization assistant to the commander of Air Force Material Command, talks to approximately 200 people at the welcoming home of the Hanoi Taxi.



The Hanoi Taxi taxis in on the three aircraft used to airlift POWs.

*Continued from front page*

natural born pack rat so I began combing through my books and contacts for more information pertaining to the 'Hanoi Taxi' and Operation Homecoming. While I was doing my research, Master Sgt. Dillon was beating the bushes for more information as well, and ended up meeting Navy Captain Robert Doremus, a former POW from Columbus, Ohio. Capt. Doremus was able to provide us with even more information about the plane and its remarkable history."

As research continued on the "Hanoi Taxi's" history, the trio, now known as "Team 177," became more aware of the aircraft's involvement in the historic missions into Hanoi, Vietnam as part of Operation Homecoming.

February 12, 1973, three C-141A Starlifters painted white and gray with red

crosses on their tails, identifying them as having peaceful intentions, took off from Clark AB, Philippines, and headed toward Gia Lam airport in Hanoi. The planes were crewed and configured for aeromedical evacuation including flight nurses, doctors and other emergency medical personnel in addition, of course, to the standard flight crews.

As the flight of four approached the coast of Vietnam, three of the aircraft circled just outside the range of North Vietnamese anti-aircraft defenses while 177 headed for the airport.

Meanwhile, the Vietnamese captors readied 112 POWs for departure. The evening prior, the prisoners were given what were called their "going away clothes" and were told to clean their rooms as. The clothing they received included dark blue slacks, light blue shirts,

a wind breaker, shoes and socks and a small bag for toiletries.

On the morning of February 12th the 112 POWs gathered in the courtyard of the "Hanoi Hilton" and were escorted under guard to the gate where camouflaged buses were waiting to take them to Gia Lam airport. Some prisoners recall that the experience was the first time that they moved anywhere without being blindfolded and handcuffed.

Major General Edward J. Mechenbier, mobilization assistant to the commander of Air Force Material Command and former POW recalled the day he left Vietnam. In a speech at the ceremony commemorating the Hanoi Taxi's completion of its last scheduled depot visit at Robins AFB, Maj. Gen. Mechenbier said, "I remember being driven to Gia Lam, looking up and seeing this thing flying overhead that was bright

# edom —



West ramp as the POW flag waves in the breeze. The Hanoi Taxi was one of the first flights to bring POWs from Vietnam to Clark Air Base Philippines in 1973.



Wright-Patterson Honor Guard marches in front of the crowd presenting the flags for the welcome home ceremony on the West ramp.



Lt. Col. Philip Pierce one of the pilots who flew 177 back to Wright-Patt greets Lt. Gen. Charles Coolidge, AFMC vice commander, as he tours the inside of the aircraft.

white. Now remember that as fighter pilots we didn't have a lot of respect for 'trash haulers,' but that airplane was the biggest, whitest, cleanest and most beautiful thing I had seen in the six years since being shot down and captured."

That first flight out of Vietnam took 40 of the 112 POWs. The rest were flown out on successive flights. The POWs aboard the first flight had been held captive for the longest time, six years and some as long as eight years, or they were in serious medical condition.

Operation Homecoming repatriated 591 POWs to the United States.

When the repatriated POWs arrived at Clark AB, they boarded buses, which took them to the base hospital for medical evaluation. Once given a clean bill of health, the POWs were flown home to the United States where they received

recurrency flight instruction courtesy of the 560th Flight Training Squadron at Randolph AFB, Texas. The 560th also honored each of them with a special "freedom" call-sign.

General Mechenbier, call-sign Freedom 159, fondly remembers the unit: "The 560th has never forgotten their role in repatriating the Vietnam Conflict POWs and they continue to host an annual Dining-In for all of the members of the 4th Allied POW Wing as well as displaying pictures of us, our plight, and various pieces of memorabilia in the squadron's common areas to remind all who come here of our legacy."

Following Operation Homecoming, 177 returned to traditional airlift missions.

"I think it's great that we can fly 177 as a line aircraft for a few more years. It helps us spread the message of her

legacy. As for the efforts of Team 177 to include memorabilia when the aircraft is on display, it really adds a tremendous insight into the story of the imprisonment and release of POWs at the end of our involvement in the Vietnam Conflict," said Gen. Mechenbier.

In a recent TV interview, Master Sgt. Harlow said, "This plane is a tribute to not only the POWs, but to those still unaccounted for and for the families who weren't able to see their loved ones come down the ramp of the Freedom Bird. We keep reminding everyone who views the Hanoi Taxi that there are still people over there (in Vietnam) and that we are doing our best to get a full accounting."

The "Hanoi Taxi" will fly missions with the 445th Airlift Wing until it is retired and honorably placed in the United States Air Force Museum.



## Wing goes “country”

by Maj. Ted Theopolos  
445th AW/Public Affairs

With boots, chaps and cowboy hats, professional bull riders thanked reservists from the 445th Airlift Wing for their military support and the War on Terrorism on October 12th.

Bull riders Mike White, Jim Sharp and Tony Mendes from the Professional Bull Riders (PBR) were visiting Wright-Patterson thanking the troops and made a stop by the reserve wing. But that wasn't the only thing on their agenda. They were here to film a portion of a music video for the hot new country song by Toby Keith “Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue.”

With their duds the bull riders took their place in front of a C-141 Starlifter aircraft with the 9-11 decal “Let’s Roll.” They soon climbed on the flight deck and strapped themselves in at the controls of the aircraft for another film clip. Tony Mendes, sitting in the command pilot seat, opened the side window and leaned out the window tipping his hat – to



**Lt. Col. Allen Gilbar and flight nurse Lt. Col. Danna Lilly, explain the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation mission to the bull riders as they visit with the wing.**

(Photos by SrA Rob Sperling)

cameraman Chuck Le Roi who was catching the riders on film.

Film director, Mr. Jim Duff, and the riders visited with reservists from the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron who was in the back of the aircraft. Lt. Col. Allen Gilbar, director of aeromedical operations, explained to our western apparel guests what their primary mission was onboard the aircraft and some of the medical equipment they use.

Before our guest left, the three riders



**Cameraman Chuck Le Roi films Jim Sharp (forward), Tony Mendes (middle) and Mike White (on steps) in front of a C-141 Starlifter aircraft from the 445th Airlift Wing with the Let’s Roll decal.**

tipped their hats one last time to one of three C-141s as it was taking-off that morning for Keflavik, Iceland. The other flights were to Robins AFB, Ga, and one to support the Vice President.

Film crew and riders thanked the reservists for the visit then left to return to Columbus, Ohio for their tournament that evening. The bull riders were competing in the Columbus Bud Light Cup at the Nationwide Arena. The prize money for the winner of the tournament was \$109,000.

## Reserve recruiters remain successful

Story and photo by SrA Robert Sperling  
445th AW/ Public Affairs

Despite the occasional use of reading glasses over his contact lenses, the vision of Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service’s vice commander has never been clearer when it comes to recruiting.

“Our goal is to field the best trained salespeople in the Department of Defense,” said Col. Kevin Reinert, a 13-year veteran of active-duty and Reserve recruiting.

Despite the challenges, AFRC recruiters lead the way in accessions per recruiter in the Department of Defense, with each

recruiter averaging about 42 recruits each year. And, Reinert would like them to remain No. 1.

“All our recruiters are volunteers and love what they do. They enjoy informing the public of the many benefits the Air Force Reserve offers,” said Reinert.

According to Reinert, benefit-driven competition, increasing applicant demands and long-term commitment experience are factors in the mounting need for improved recruiting services.

“In the past several months the recruiting service has brought several new recruiters to the area surrounding Wright-Patterson, either green rookies and more experienced prior service recruiters. The addition has eased the burden of recruiters having to manage large areas where individuals commute to and from two and or more satellite offices,” said Senior Master Sgt. Roger Kendall, Lead Recruiter for the areas surrounding Wright-Patterson AFB.

In addition to new recruiters in the field, the recruiting service has been given more funds to advertise and blanket their areas with as much information about the Air Force Reserve as possible.

“In the months following the September terrorist attacks of 2001 we, the recruiting service, have been riding the wave of patriotism. People now have an increased interest in restarting military duties and the media has been more willing to provide advertisement for low cost and even for free,” said Tech. Sgt. Travis Newkirk, a recruiter from the Covington, Ky. satellite office.

Reservists interested in a recruiting career may call the Reserve Recruiting Service at DSN 497-0145 or (478) 327-0145. (AFRC News Service contributed to this story)



**Tech. Sgt. Travis Newkirk works through some of the required paperwork with new recruit Brandon Gerald. Brandon will be traveling to Lackland AFB, Texas for basic training on December 17th of this year.**



## Welcome and Congratulations!

### Promotions

*Congratulations to the following personnel, recently promoted to the rank indicated.*

#### Technical Sergeant

Ronald Baker, 356 AS  
Bryan Cepluch, 445 SFS  
Mark Frederickson, 445 SPTG  
Eric Pierce, 87 APS  
Richard Ratliff, 445 MXS



#### Master Sergeant

David Adkins, 445 MXS  
James Gallagher, 356 AS  
Terry Harlow, 356 AS  
James Lakin, 445 AMDS



#### First Lieutenant

John Smith, 89 AS



#### Captain

Paul Brenner, 445 CES  
Gregory Bules, 445 AW  
Christine Butterworth, 445 ASTS  
Ronald Courey, 445 CLSS  
Darren Duncan, 445 AW  
Nancie Foster, 445 AES  
Christina Jones, 445 AES  
Robin Kenney, 445 AES  
Daiga Koenig, 445 AMDS  
Sinclair Lagergren, 89 AS  
Michael Martini, 445 AGS  
Margaret Myslinsky, 445 ASTS  
John Pica, 89 AS  
Todd Reeder, 445 AGS  
Mark Rogers, 445 AMDS  
Andre Saunders, 445 AW



Sheryl Schwartzkopf, 445 AES  
Norman Shaw, 356 AS  
Kevin Sullivan, 89 AS

#### Major

Beraki Haile, 445 ASTS  
Christan Stewart, 445 AMDS

#### Lieutenant Colonel

Dan Bratka, 445 SFS  
Nancy Byrne, 445 AES  
Gregory Green, 89 AS  
Brian Hayes, 445 AW  
Steven Johnson, 356 AS  
Joseph Savage, 445 MXS  
Stan Sheley, 445 MXS  
Mark Silver, 356 AS



### Reenlistments

*Congratulations to the following 445th AW members who recently re-enlisted in the Reserve.*

SSgt. Jeffrey Schneider, 445 MXS  
SSgt. David Wagner, 89 AS  
TSgt. Darrell Crum, 445 SFS  
TSgt. Terrence Hamman, 445 MXS  
TSgt. Samuel Herzog, 445 CES  
TSgt. Jason Vance, 445 MSS  
TSgt. Aaron Wallenburg, 89 AS  
MSgt. Rodger Cuccio, 89 AS  
MSgt. Michele Toomey, 445 AES

### Newcomers

*Welcome to the following reservists, recently assigned to the 445th AW:*

AB Amanda Rockwell, 445 ASTS  
AB Tiffany Smith, 445 CES

AMN Andrea Lehmkuhl, 445 MXS  
AMN Seth McBurney, 445 CES  
A1C Jennifer Mohler, 445 ASTS  
A1C Benjamin Toops, 87 APS  
A1C Jeremy Holtkamp, 445 CES  
A1C Gregory Compton, 445 CES  
A1C Steven Andersen, 445 MSS  
A1C William Canty, 445 MSS  
A1C Toron Franklin, 445 MXS  
SrA Jerry Dougal, 445 ASTS  
SrA Stephen Curtis, 445 OSS  
SrA Eric Davidson, 87 APS  
SrA Willard Vangundy, 445 CES  
SrA Keeva Wilder, 445 AW  
SrA Anna Wong, 89 AS  
SSgt. Corey Hellmann, 445 ASTS  
SSgt. Thomas McIntire, 445 ASTS  
SSgt. Robert Bowles, 445 OSS  
SSgt. Matthew Mitchell, 445 AGS  
SSgt. Richard Dreyer, 87 APS  
SSgt. Gerald Ewing, 445 CLSS  
TSgt. Thomas Mahady, 445 CES  
TSgt. William Meadows, 445 AMDS

### Awards

*Congratulations to the following 445th AW members who recently earned awards.*

#### Meritorious Service Medal

SMSgt. Donald Jackson, 445 AGS  
CMSgt. Ricky Waggy, 445 AW

#### Air Force Commendation Medal

TSgt. Brian Dawes, 356 AS  
TSgt. Peggy Hunter, 89 AS  
TSgt. Robin Morris, 356 AS  
MSgt. Linwood Berry, 87 APS

MSgt. Barry Storer, 87 APS  
1st. Lt. Jason Shaffer, 356 AS  
Capt. Jeffrey Sims, 87 APS

#### Air Force Achievement Medal

SrA Matthew Cunningham, 445 MXS  
SrA Dejuan Gaskins, 445 MXS  
SrA Asa Koons, 445 MXS  
SSgt. Donald Floyd, 87 APS  
SSgt. Scott McCoy, 445 MXS  
SSgt. Jan Christensen, 445 MXS  
SSgt. Wade Hurst, 445 MXS  
SSgt. Timothy Leedy, 445 MXS  
SSgt. David Auer, 445 AMDS  
TSgt. Marvin Fowler Jr., 87 APS  
TSgt. Kevin Dawson, 445 MXS  
TSgt. Timothy Emberton, 445 MXS  
TSgt. Phillip Linville, 445 MXS  
TSgt. Judy Ponting, 445 MXS  
TSgt. Timothy Back, 445 AMDS  
TSgt. Debbie Beer, 445 AMDS  
TSgt. Sheryl Olmstead, 445 AMDS  
TSgt. Valerie Stumpf, 445 AMDS  
MSgt. Edward Engel Jr., 445 MXS  
MSgt. Kenneth Sherman, 445 MXS  
MSgt. Mellisa Caylor, 445 AMDS  
MSgt. Phyllis Felix, 445 AMDS  
MSgt. Rose Harris, 445 AMDS  
MSgt. Rodney Shultz, 445 AMDS  
SMSgt. Johnny Cupp, 445 ASTS  
Capt. Romeo Cabungal, 445 AMDS  
Capt. Michael Cooper, 445 AMDS  
Capt. Christian Stewart, 445 AMDS  
Capt. Melissa Triche, 445 AMDS  
Maj. Gretchen Mulhorn, 445 AMDS  
Maj. Bradford Schwarz, 445 AMDS  
Lt. Col. Jeffrey Beery, 445 AMDS



## Wing has good showing at CFC aircraft pull

Four teams from the 445th AW joined in at the aircraft pull for Combined Federal Campaign at the Air Force Museum. Members from the 445th Support Group, 445th Aircraft Generation Squadron, 445th Maintenance Squadron, and a co-ed group from the C-141 school house did their best to pull an F-111 aircraft as far as they could within the allotted time. All teams had a good showing with the co-ed team from the school house finishing second in their division. The wing contributed \$800 for the CFC.

**Support Group pull the F-111 378 feet 5 inches during their turn.** (Photo by SMSgt. Jack Yeager)



## ‘Coining’ against terrorism

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Commanders use specially minted military coins to improve morale, foster unit esprit and honor service members for their hard work.



A new Combating Terrorism coin does all this and raises funds for the children of special operations warriors who are killed in the line of duty.

The coin is available at [www.strikingimpressions.com](http://www.strikingimpressions.com) for \$12.50. The company donates 25 percent of the profit from the coin to the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. The foundation has established a fund to provide for the education of the sons and daughters of special operators killed in the line of duty.

The DOD office is, of course, just one of the entities fighting the war on terrorism. The office allows legitimate agencies to use the eagle design with their own agency crests on the back. Steve Barker, president of Striking Impressions, said the State and Justice departments and various Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard units have taken up that offer.

## LG going out of business sale!

Buy a short sleeve black 445 AW T-shirt and receive a 445th Fundamental Justice/Enduring Freedom coin free. Shirts \$10.00 each.

Shirts are located in Bldg 4012 room 161. Please call 7-0389 if you have any questions! The LG Top 3 would like to thank you for your support.



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## Disney features military veterans

by SrA Robert Sperling  
445th AW/ Public Affairs

Following the September 11th terrorist attacks of 2001, Walt Disney World, Orlando, Fla. has included veterans and military members in their daily retreat ceremonies.

Each day at 5:00 p.m. a group of three Disney security detail members and one veteran march to the theme park's Main Street flagpole in the Magic Kingdom to lower the flag in a formal retreat ceremony.

Recently, a member of the 445th Airlift Wing was the veteran who participated in the ceremony. Staff Sgt. Dennis Thomas of the 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron was on vacation with his family and unknown to him his mother-in-law had signed him up to participate.

"We had been to the park the previous day and saw the ceremony, but that day's veteran had already been picked. The next day we returned to the park intending to have the Disney characters sing and recognize my mother-in-law's birthday, but that all changed," said Thomas. "My mother-in-law had plans of her own."

"We all had a great day and about quarter to five we found ourselves again at the flag pole to watch the retreat. That's about the time a Disney employee came up to us and asked if I was Dennis Thomas. I said I was and immediately knew what I was about to do," explained Thomas. At some point that day Thomas's mother-in-



Staff Sgt. Dennis Thomas of the 445th Maintenance Squadron participates at the formal retreat ceremony at Walt Disney World. (Courtesy photo)

law had slipped away and volunteered him to participate in the afternoon's event.

"Participating in the retreat ceremony was a tremendous honor. I could not thank my mother-in-law enough for giving me the chance to be a part of it," said Thomas.

Veterans interested in participating in Walt Disney World's daily retreat ceremony may volunteer for consideration by signing up in the Towne Hall located on Main Street.

Each participant receives a photo of the ceremony, a certificate naming him or her "Veteran of the Day," and a lapel pin.

